# NASA Research and Education Support Services (NRESS)

## Project Highlights

### Science Support

- Perform peer review support for NASA solicitations, helping choose the best research projects to support the mission to Mars, among other projects
- Use our expertise and scientific knowledge to identify/recruit subject matter expert reviewers
- Monitor and mitigate conflict of interest issues

### Peer Review Facilitation and Logistical Support

- Prepare pre-solicitation and solicitation documents
- Support submission of Notices of Intent, Requests for Information, and Research Proposals
- Facilitate review of more than 11,000 solicitation responses a year
- Schedule and prepare for peer reviews
- Train review panel members
- Provide travel and logistics support
- Administer peer review panels
- Coordinate selection activities with NASA public affairs and legislative affairs
- Provide post-award grant management support

### IT Support

- Develop and maintain NSPIRES
- Perform software and hardware upgrades and enhancements
- Provide support for NSPIRES helpdesk and Office and Peer review
- Update annual security plan and perform security audit

## GST Support for NASA Peer Reviews

Since 2000, GST – along with its partners – has provided **end-to-end solicitation, peer review, and information system support services** to support NASA's grant solicitation and selection process. GST's subject matter experts, including Master's and Ph.D.'s in physics, chemistry, microbiology, electrical engineering, and computer engineering, recruit for the best science reviewers and administer peer review panels on behalf of NASA and NASA's agency and industry partners. GST's scientists support multiple research areas relevant to NASA's mission in human exploration and space technology areas, including International Space Station and low-earth orbit research and future manned missions to Mars and other destinations. NASA's scientific research and STEM grants programs fund the best scientific research, engineering, and technology research needed to advance NASA missions.

The fair assessment of scientific and technical merit is a cornerstone of any funding agency, and GST is dedicated to **adherence to peer review principles and strict enforcement of conflict-of-interest policies** to provide robust, unbiased feedback for consideration in NASA's research funding decisions. GST supports these peer reviews by identifying and recruiting reviewers, administering peer review panels, and training the review panel members.

**NSPIRES** — *NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System*

The NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES) supports NASA research from the release of solicitation announcements through peer review and selection processes. NSPIRES is a secure, reliable system for proposal submission and receipt, review, and selection and is used by the science and technology research community, commercial organizations, educational organizations, Federal agencies, non-U.S. organizations, nonprofit, nonacademic organizations, and the public. GST is responsible for **NSPIRES's software and database development/enhancement, system maintenance, operations, and system administration**. This web-based system enables all NASA grant-soliciting Centers and directorates to facilitate all phases of research grant solicitation for more than 169,000 registered external users, more than 1,000 registered internal users, and over 7,200 registered organizations. We led the effort to perform a complete overhaul of the NSPIRES supporting hardware, reducing the NSPIRES footprint resulting in $4,000 a month savings in data center hosting fees for the remainder of the project. All these changes were completed with no significant user impact and while exceeding the system availability requirement of 98%.

GST also manages the NASA Task Book. This system provides detailed information on more than 10,400 Science Mission Directorate and Space Operations Mission Directorate research tasks, provides annual progress updates on each active task, and allows users to find tasks by a variety of search criteria.